

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Nicole Lurie, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Secretary for
Preparedness and Response
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Lurie,

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is examining U.S. public health preparedness and response to the Zika virus. We appreciate ASPR's participation in a briefing of bipartisan Committee staff on February 8, 2016. For our forthcoming hearing on the Zika outbreak, to be held on March 2, 2016, you should be prepared to address the following questions in either your written or oral testimony:

1. The February 8, 2016 fact sheet detailing the request for emergency funding to help confront the Zika virus proposes establishment of a new Urgent and Emerging Threat Fund to address Zika virus and other outbreaks. This funding "would be available to support emerging needs related to Zika, including additional support to States for emerging public health response needs should mosquito populations known to be potential Zika carriers migrate to additional states". This new fund is not mentioned by name in the February 22, 2016 emergency supplemental appropriations request.
 - a. How would the aims and administration for this new fund be informed by the prior experience with Ebola funding?
 - b. What assurances can you provide that the Urgent and Emerging Threat Fund will not duplicate other existing funding streams to support the public health response?

2. The CDC share of the emergency funding request would include “support [for] Zika virus readiness and response capacity in States and territories with mosquito populations that are known to transmit Zika virus, with a priority focus on areas with ongoing Zika transmission.”
 - a. Have States and territories been consulted on what their immediate needs may be, or on how this funding may best be put to use?
3. What is the status of efforts to expand diagnostic testing capacity for Zika by States and territories?
4. How, if at all, has our understanding of the link between Zika virus infections, the birth defect microcephaly and Guillain-Barré Syndrome improved since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the ongoing outbreak is a public health emergency of international concern on February 1, 2016?

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Sam Spector with the majority committee staff at (202) 225-2927 or Una Lee with the minority committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Tim Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations



Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations